

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
AND
Superintendent of Schools



OF THE
TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE

For the Year Ending December 31, 1956



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For the Year Ending December 31, 1956

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OF THE
SCHOOL COMMITTEE
SOUTHBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

DECEMBER 31, 1956

THE SOUTHBRIDGE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

1956 - 1957

Chairman, Belmore St. Amant, 11 Edwards St.	1958
Vice-Chairman, Dr. Ralph R. Racicot, 192 Chapin	1958
Lorenzo Beaupre, 131 Central St.	1957
Edgar J. Bourgeois, 42 Goddard St.	1957
Louis VanDernoot, 45 Westwood Pkwy.	1959
Anatole J. Bombardier, 385 Hamilton St.	1959

MEETINGS OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE

The regular meetings of the School Committee are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 P. M. in the office of the Superintendent of Schools, Mary E. Wells High School Building.
There are no regular meetings in July and August.

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Robert L. Fox

Residence: 46 Columbus Avenue	Tel. 4-8400
Office: Mary E. Wells High School	Tel. 4-3285

SECRETARIES

Margaret R. Connolly, 14 South Street	Tel. 4-6513
Mrs. Leona Lavoie, 14 Overland Street	Tel. 4-6733

The Superintendent's office is open from Monday through Friday, from 8.30 A. M. to 5:00 P. M.

SCHOOL PHYSICIANS

Dr. William Langevin, 24 Everett St.	Tel. 4-7358
Dr. Adah B. Eccleston, 62 Elm St.	Tel. 4-8141

SCHOOL NURSES

Mrs. Lottie A. LeBlanc, 54 Westwood Parkway	Tel. 4-3359
Mrs. Pauline Boucher, 13 Edwards St.	Tel. 4-7772

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Winter term, seven weeks	January 2 - February 15
Spring term, eight weeks	February 25 - April 18
Summer term, eight weeks	April 29 - June 21
Fall term, sixteen weeks	September 4 - December 20

NO-SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENT

The official No-School Announcement for all schools will be given over Stations WESO and WTAG at 7:00 A. M. and 7:45 A. M. There will also be two sets of eight blasts of the fire siren at 6:45 A. M. When it is necessary to make such a decision in the morning, schools will be closed for the entire day.

ENROLLMENT OCTOBER 1, 1956

Grades	5 - 7		7 - 14		14 - 16		16 - Up		Total	
	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
1	88	85	14	7					102	92
2	11	12	70	74	1				82	86
3		4	128	76					128	80
4			102	97					102	97
5			99	102					99	102
6			71	75	2	1			73	76
7			69	62	3	3			72	65
8			58	69	22	12			80	81
9			14	19	53	71	3	1	70	91
10				2	36	61	8	4	44	67
11					10	16	20	38	30	54
12							43	53	43	53
Trade			1		54		103		158	
Special			14	6	4	1	1		19	7
Total	99	101	640	586	185	165	178	96	1102	951
Total Southbridge Public Schools										2053
Total Saint Mary's School										288
Total Notre Dame School										838
Total Ste. Jeanne d'Arc School										250
Grand Total (all pupils attending school in Southbridge)										3429

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

	Appropriations	Expenditures	Reimbursements	Balance on hand Dec. 31, 1956
Salaries	\$482,152.00	\$479,617.66		\$2,534.34
Other Expenses (Including Transportation, Tuition, Medical Expenses, Textbooks, Supplies, Operation and Maintenance of Plant, Equipment, Capital Outlay, etc.)				
Contingency	146,705.00	146,686.68		18.32
Audio-Visual Aids	5,000.00	4,778.98		221.02
Playgrounds	2,000.00	1,969.68		30.32
Driver Education	4,000.00	3,982.57		17.43
Federal Lunch Program (Cafeteria)	1,200.00	1,198.58		1.42
Smith-Hughes Fund	5,600.00	5,600.00		
George Barden Fund	1,377.92	1,377.92		
General Athletic Fund	252.00	132.00		120.00
School Building Improvement Acct.	1,500.00	1,453.62		46.38
Wells Toilet Accommodations	4,767.61	3,216.57		1,551.04
State Aid for Schools (Chap. 70 as Amended 1948 Chap. 643)	882.77	843.83		38.94
Vocational School, State Grant			\$106,138.97	
Smith-Hughes, U. S. Gov. Fund			33,287.03	
George Barden Fund			1,377.92	
High School Tuition			132.00	
Elementary School Tuition and Transportation			1,458.24	
			1,438.72	

FINANCIAL STATEMENT (Continued)

	Appro- priations	Ex- penditures	Reimburse- ments	Balance on hand Dec. 31, 1956
Vocational School Tuition and Transportation			7,617.85	
Cole Trade High Evening School Tuition			161.00	
Cole Trade High School — Goods Sold			6.70	
Cole Trade High School — Clerical Services, Veterans' Reports			145.00	
Transportation Vocational Pupils			689.53	
Reimbursement—Vocational Tuition			611.92	
Reimbursement—Special Classes (Mentally, Retarded Children)			4,930.25	
Reimbursement—Physically Handicapped Children			833.59	
Elementary Schools—Restitution, Broken Windows			9.00	
Rental of Auditorium			15.00	
TOTALS	\$655,437.30	\$650,858.09	\$158,582.72	\$4,579.21
IN BRIEF:				
Total Expenditures		\$650,858.09		
Total Receipts to Town Treasurer		158,852.72		
Net Cost to Town		\$492,005.37		

A detailed financial statement will be found in the Town Accountant's report.

SCHOOL PERSONNEL

The name, date of appointment, and degrees appear in that order.

Robert L. Fox—1954	M.Ed.
Sven Rosengren—1950	M.A.
Claire Birtz—1937	
Lewis Kyrios—1954	D.Ed.
Elwood Jenness—1948	B.S.
Paul Sweet—1950	

Mary E. Wells High School

James M. Robertson—1937	D.Ed.
Nora Adams—1947 Secretary to Principal	
Pauline Aucoin—1921	B.S.
Kathryn Beauregard—1922	M.A.
Rose Brodeur—1939	M.A.
Eva Casavant—1933	M.A.
Laura Chapman—1953	A.B.
Anthony Chlapowski—1956	B.S.
Constance Coderre—1929	B.S.
Luise Corbin—1915	
Edward Desroches—1949	A.B.
Paul Duhart—1949	M.Ed.
Thecla Fitzgerald—1926	M.Ed.
Francis Flanagan—1956	B.S.
Robert Hart—1952	M.Ed.
Everett Holmes—1945	M.Ed.
Persis Howe—1930	B.S.
Barbara Kyrios—1940	B.S.
Eino Laakso—1945	M.A.
Harry McMahon—1926	M.A.
Fayne McMaster—1956	A.B.
William Nickerson—1941	B.S.
Elinor Small—1945	M.Ed.
Flora Tait—1939	M.A.
Frances Troy—1927	B.S.
Lindzay Varnam—1943	M.Ed.
Elsie Wanerka—1945	B.S.
John Welch—1948	M.Ed.

COLE TRADE HIGH SCHOOL

Raymond L. W. Benoit—1949	M.Ed.
Maureen Prokos—1946 Secretary to Director	
Elsie Hofstra—1933 Clerk	
John Benson—1942	B.S.
George Braman—1938	
Walter Glondek—1938	
David Knight—1956	

~~B.S.~~ B.S.B.A.

M.A.

THOMAS HARRINGTON 1957
 1957 6 Feb 38-39.40

Lucian Manchuk—1956	
William Paul—1942	
Eugene Remian—1949	B.S.
Frank P. Skinyon—1934	B.S.
Lawrence Swenson—1932	
Edwin Waskiewicz—1952	

CHARLTON STREET SCHOOL

R. Joseph Racine—1944	M.A.
Dorothy Berthiaume—1954	A.B.
Lorene Fierro—1954	B.S.
Helen Golden—1948	B.A.
Claire Kirk—1949	B.S.
John Kowalski, Jr.—1955	B.S.
Gwen Kuszewski—1954	
Dorothy Locke—1954	
Bernard Pouliot—1955	B.A.
Marie Saunders—1954	
Linda Shipley—1956	B.A.

EASTFORD ROAD SCHOOL

Raoul Lataille—1940	M.Ed.
Theodore Finnerty—1948	M.A.
Bertha Foley—1912	
Irene Gough—1912	
Ruth Huson—1946	
Thomas Mahoney—1954	B.S.
Julia Morrill—1914	
Mary Puracchio—1956	B.S.
Vincent Puracchio—1950	B.S.
Dorothy Simpson—1954	B.S.
Marie Skaza—1949	
Florida Tarquinio—1942	B.S.

MARCY STREET SCHOOL

Constance L'Ecuyer—1940	M.A.
Patricia Callahan—1939	M.A.
Alice Dion—1926	
Faith Dostal—1956	
Josette Dupuis—1948	A.B.
Myrtle Jodrey—1944	
Martha Koprowski—1954	B.S.
Malcolm Nash—1948	M.Ed.
Eva Salviuolo—1943	B.S.

MECHANIC STREET SCHOOL

Anita Sfreddo—1953	Ms.B.
Elizabeth Curtis—1944	A.B.
Myrtle Harrald—1955	

PLEASANT STREET SCHOOL

Camella Dintini—1940	B.S.
Maria Rayces—1956	
Ruth Sampson—1930	
Mary Winston—1951	

SPECIAL TEACHERS

William E. Rinehart—1952	B.S.
Stanley Naumnik—1954	
Clara Reed—1941	

WEST STREET SCHOOL

Laurenda Boyer—1927	
Yolande Augusto—1951	B.S.
Raymond Fell—1956	B.S.
Nancy Jodrey—1954	B.A.
Madelene Proulx—1954	B.S.
Anthony Sapienza—1954	B.S.
Shirley Richardson—1956	B.S.
Dorothy Sheriff—1945	
Anne Skudlark—1954	
Celestine Sweet—1932	B.A.
Betty-Lou Whritenour—1956	B.S.

CAFETERIA PERSONNEL

Edith Freeman—1953	Manager
Viola Galligan—1953	
Irene Gates—1954	
Germaine Gravel—1956	
Isabel LaForce—1953	

CHANGE OF TEACHERS

LEFT

Retired

Estelle Hefner—June	Mary E. Wells High
Cathryn Maxwell—June	Eastford Road
Corinne Beaudreau—June	Pleasant Street

Resigned

Arthur Lane—August	Mary E. Wells
Guy Raiti—February	Cole Trade High
Lois Traub—October	Eastford Road
Ann Bousquet—June	Mechanic Street
Tynne Straatveit—June	Mechanic Street
Betty-Lou Whritenour—November	West Street
Maria Rayces—December	Pleasant Street

Leave of Absence

Gilbert Lamarre—August	Mary E. Wells High
Ruth Mahan—August	Charlton Street
Evangeline Towse—August	Marcy Street

Appointments

February—Lucian Manchuk	Cole Trade High
April—David Knight	Cole Trade High
September—Anthony Chlapowski	Mary E. Wells
September—Francis Flanagan	Mary E. Wells
September—Fayne McMaster	Mary E. Wells
September—Linda Shipley	Charlton Street
September—Mary Puracchio	Eastford Road
September—Faith Dostal	Marcy Street
September—Myrtle Harrald	Mechanic Street
September—Maria Rayces	Pleasant Street
September—Shirley Richardson	West Street
October—Betty-Lou Whritenour	West Street
November—Raymond Fell	West Street

CHANGE OF JANITORS

Left

September—Joseph Libera	Mary E. Wells
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Appointments

October—Wilfred Pelletier	Mary E. Wells
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JANITORS

1954—Joseph Brouillard (Head Janitor)	Mary E. Wells
1946—John B. Craite	Cole Trade High
1942—Armand Gaumond	Mechanic Street
1952—Wilfred P. Gauthier	West Street
1952—Adelard Lavallee	Marcy Street
1943—Theophile Leduc	Charlton Street
1955—Joseph Libera	Mary E. Wells High
1941—Joseph Moore	Eastford Road
1949—Eugene Tetreault	Pleasant Street
1953—George St. Martin	Mary E. Wells
1956—Wilfred Pelletier	Mary E. Wells

ANNUAL REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

To the School Committee of Southbridge:

Gentlemen:

I have the pleasure of presenting to you, and through you to the Citizens of the Town, my third annual report which is the sixty-second in the series of reports issued by the superintendents of the public schools of the town.

Enrollment Trends

Increase in school enrollment has not been as alarming as it has been in many other towns. School population in a neighboring community, for instance, has increased by several hundred each year for many years. In Southbridge our numbers have increased steadily at the rate of fifty to sixty each year, and the growth will continue at about the same rate during the years for which predictions may be made at this time. It may seem that fifty is a relatively small increase in a total enrollment of about two thousand, but, from an administrative point of view, the increase is the equivalent of about two classrooms.

A concrete example of the effect that this steady growth has upon school planning will be in evidence at the West Street School on next September. Two fourth grades, one from Pleasant Street School and one from West Street School, totaling sixty-five pupils, would enter the fifth grade at West Street School under normal conditions. There is, however, but one room available to them because at that school we shall have a double sixth grade and a double seventh grade. We shall have to place as large a number as possible, forty probably, in the room at the West Street School and transport the other twenty-five to other schools in town. The criteria used for the assignment of pupils to other schools are these: Those who live near enough to Marcy Street School shall be sent there even though Marcy Street School has thirty-two in its fourth grade this year and will be able to take no more than eight in its fifth grade next year. Since bus pupils have to be transported anyway, they will be transferred to other schools. If, by these methods, there are still too many in the fifth grade at the West Street School, a taxi service to Charlton Street or Eastford Road Schools will have to be instituted. This is but one of several similar problems which beset us in the elementary schools at the present time and which will become more harassing as the years unfold.

At the secondary level we have a situation which may be tolerable for another year. Including the eighth grade, there are 613 pupils in the Mary E. Wells High School building this year. The first indication of overcrowding has become apparent. During one of the class periods, a class in an academic subject must meet in the Household Arts Laboratory because

no regular classroom is available. There are ninety-six in the Senior class and by some strange statistical quirk only 137 in the seventh grades of the town. Therefore the increase in the number of pupils in the high school building will be disturbing but not alarming next year. But with 150 in the sixth grades and an average of 200 in grades three, four, and five, no imagination is required to foretell what must happen in September of 1959. The eighth grade must leave the high school building. Its destination, at that time, is uncertain.

Projects

The administrative guide, a book containing all the rules and regulations controlling principals, supervisors, teachers, and janitors, was published during the summer. It was the result of a two-year study on the part of the principals, and it is an extremely valuable document in that it serves to create common administrative practices throughout the system. With it as a guide, a comparison of policies between two schools within the community should no longer exist.

Another study of equal length on the part of all elementary school teachers resulted in the publishing of a curriculum guide for the elementary schools of the town. It is a volume of more than two hundred pages and contains, step by step, subject by subject, grade by grade, the elementary courses which are a part of the curriculum in grades one through eight.

The chief purposes of this project were:

1. To establish goals towards which every teacher shall work, contributing through her teaching and guidance to a planned total education of the children under her supervision.
2. To unify courses of study. A pupil moving from a third grade in one school to a third grade in another should have little trouble in making the adjustment.
3. To facilitate the entrance of a new teacher into our system.
4. To avoid unnecessary duplication in subject matter.
5. To propose such changes in textbooks and other instructional material as may seem advisable.
6. To have, in written form, a planned educational program for our elementary schools. When this is not available, there is apt to be confusion.

The title of the book is "Elementary Schools Curriculum Guide." The word, "Guide," in the title is the key to its value. It should be considered a source of help, a tool to better instruction, and a means of coordinating the efforts of all who participate in the elementary school education of the youth of our community. There must be elasticity to any worthwhile program, and the opportunity for a teacher to use initiative should always be encouraged. These courses of study are the core of

learning, but there is much more to modern education than can be placed between the covers of a book. In many interesting ways, according to her ability and personality, each teacher will add immeasurably to the hard, cold statements in the guide, breathing life and meaning into our educational program.

Planning for the Future

At the annual town meeting in March, a school building expansion proposal will be placed before the voters for approval. The proposal calls for the acquisition of a plot of land some forty acres in area and for the building of a high school, a trade school, and common facilities for cafeteria, assembly, athletics, and physical education. If the proposal is accepted, the present Cole Trade High School building will be converted into an elementary school of seven rooms, and the Mary E. Wells High School building will accommodate pupils of the sixth, seventh, and eighth grades. The Marcy Street and Mechanic Street School buildings will be abandoned; the other elementary schools will be used for kindergarten, and grades one through five.

If the recommendations of the School Building Planning Committee are adopted, within two years not only will there be adequate space for the foreseeable future but also, quite suddenly for such a tremendous change, Southbridge will have a department of education which will be modern in every respect. Facilities which are available to high school students in most towns of our state now, will then be a part of our educational program.

The cost is great but the rewards are immeasurable. The consummation of the project will bring educational opportunities to the high school students of Southbridge equal to those of young people in neighboring towns. There will be a school library, complete facilities for the teaching of science of physical education, music, art, and the trades. There will be enough room in the elementary schools to create some of the special areas which are now a part of grade school work. There will be segregation according to age, and this element is a desirable one wherever it can be accomplished.

The Southbridge School Committee and the Southbridge School Building Planning Committee are in complete accord that this proposal is the best plan of school building expansion for Southbridge. This plan has grown out of a two-year study both by them and by their predecessors, the Citizens Committee for Better Schools. They who have worked so long and diligently on this project ask only that every citizen in Southbridge investigate the proposal completely so that he may know from his own experience all the elements of the plan. The School Building Planning Committee, headed by Mr. George Metras, stands ready and eager to meet with any group and submit to

any questions concerning the proposed new school and changes in the system allied to it.

Conclusion.

The success or failure of a Superintendent of Schools is largely dependent upon the attitudes, the cooperation, and the achievements of those with whom he labors. If this past year has been a good one, and I think it has been a year of progress, I would extend a word of appreciation to a hard-working, loyal corps of principals, teachers, supervisors, secretaries, and custodians; to a school committee which has met every problem with open mind and has accepted responsibilities with unswerving directness; to about two thousand friendly, cooperative young people who are a school's reason for being.

MARY E. WELLS HIGH SCHOOL

DR. JAMES M. ROBERTSON, Principal

The enrollment for the year 1956-1957, as of October, is divided as follows: Seniors—96, Juniors—84, Sophomores—111, Freshmen—161, Eighth Graders—161, making a total of 613 students.

Program of Studies

Diplomas are granted upon completion of four different courses; namely: Academic, Commercial, Civic-Social, and Homemaking.

Seventy-five pupils were graduated on June 8, 1956, and their names are included in this report for the information of interested citizens.

Class of 1956

John Waldemar Anderson	†Judith Anne Davey
*Lorraine Lucille Arpin	John Vincent Lachapelle
*Bruce Stuart Baker	†Robert Henry Lamothe
Irene Carolyn Barnes	*Donald Samuel Lapierre
*Catherine Fay Beebe	*Roger Henry Lapierre
†Vasil Thomas Bellos	*Patricia Ann Leveille
*William Ernest Borsari	†Dolores Estelle Liro
Raymond Alcide Brousseau	Guido Domenic Digregorio
†Janet Marie Bumpus	*Jean Helen Duda
James Patrick Canty, Jr.	Joann Lillian Dulmaine
*Judith Joyce Caron	James Bruce Dunn
Rachel Joan Carpentier	Henry Frederick, Jr.
Patricia Ann Carragher	Donald Normand Gaudette
†William Henri Clifford	†Kleopatra George
Michael James Congdon	*Kathleen Joan Grandone
Joseph Philip Cordi	Judith Ann Groth
Harry James Costa	Kenneth Hall

Clayre Beatrice Hill
 †Joanne Gay Houle
 †Nancy Keating Hughes
 †Maureen Margaret Israel
 †David Arthur Kavanagh
 *Patricia Louise Kirry
 Barbara Kovaleski
 Chester John Krupinski
 †Jacqueline Annette Poirier
 David Joseph Quinn
 John Henry Rawson
 †James Heater Robertson
 †Paula Marie Rubenstein
 Eugene Walter Saletnik
 Barbara Joan McRoy
 Carolyn Fay McRoy
 Anna Rita Marino
 †Paul Armand Mathieu
 †Roland Paul Meunier
 *Diane Godard Michaels

Arthur Mitchell
 †Patricia Margaret Nichols
 Barbara Ann Osberg
 *Bessie Naomi Pantos
 Theresa Ida Peck
 Alan Lewis Phillips
 Margaret Evelyn Serleto
 *Irene Amelia Simonelli
 Raymond Milton Snow
 *Peter Joseph Sugda
 *James Thanas Tanca
 Helen Victoria Topi
 *Joyce Madeline Ugalde
 Dorothy Peggy Vangel
 †Alexandria Marie Veshia
 Ferdinand John Volpini
 Elizabeth Marie Williams
 Kenneth Francis Willis
 †Marcia Warren Wilson

‡ War Diploma

Mario Piccione

Lawrence David Smith

Improvements in the School Plant

There have been several major improvements in the school building. These include:

1. A modern girls' lavatory installed on the basement floor
2. Additional lockers purchased and installed on the first floor, bringing the total number of lockers to 153, which affords locker space for 306 students.
3. Two additional rooms equipped with modern moveable furniture
4. The painting of the interior of the school which was started two years ago and recently completed

* General average of 80% or above for four years.

† Members of the National Honor Society.

‡ Any person, who enters the armed services of the United States during time of war or during a period of national emergency by declaration of the President of the United States and has completed the first half of his senior year in a public high school and is in good standing in said school on the date of his entrance into said armed services, shall be granted a diploma forthwith, and shall for all purposes, be considered to have completed his entire high school course. (State Department of Education: Chapter 91—Acts of 1954.)

5. The installation of six new I. B. M. clocks
6. The installation of oil heat in the school plant

Junior Red Cross

The Junior Red Cross is a service organization. This group, under the able direction of Miss Luise Corbin, gives cheer and aid to the destitute, the ill, and the unfortunate.

The work of the group with the veterans supplements the tremendous task carried on by local, state, and national patriotic groups.

The work of the Junior Red Cross, however, is not confined to local problems. Cognizant of the needs of many of our overseas allies, they have filled chests full of supplies that will take care of a school of forty-eight pupils for a period of one year. Each chest costs one hundred dollars to fill. The Mary E. Wells Chapter of the Junior Red Cross has sent chests to Hungary.

Guidance Department

The work of the Guidance Department will be covered in the report of the Guidance Director, Mr. Sven Rosengren.

The Commercial Course

The commercial program includes: typewriting, book-keeping, comptometry, filing, office practice, and all general business courses. The cooperative program with industry is still in operation. The course takes place in the last semester of the senior year and permits pupils to alternate work weeks with instruction weeks. The students, four units of them, take places in reliable business institutions and have found this program most beneficial.

The equipment of the Commercial Department is kept at maximum efficiency.

The College Preparatory Course

The college preparatory course prepares students for all leading universities and colleges in the country. Many of the pupils receive large scholarships, a tribute to their own industry and a tribute to the excellent instruction of their teachers. Students from this course have entered such leading institutions as the following: Cornell, Connecticut College for Women, Brown University, The College of the Holy Cross, Tufts, Dartmouth, University of Massachusetts, Boston University, University of Michigan, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Clark University, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard University, Carnegie Institute of Technology, Smith College, Mount Holyoke, Wellesley College, Simmons College, Columbia University, University

of Connecticut, University of New Hampshire, Williams College, Colorado College, Ohio State University, The College of New Rochelle, California Institute of Technology, Georgia Institute of Technology, Pennsylvania State College, Northeastern University, Westminster College, Bates, Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy, Colby, plus most of the leading business colleges, and nursing schools.

The Eighth Grades

The eighth grades of the school system are still housed in the high school building. This year it has been necessary, because of increased enrollment, to have five eighth grade home rooms. The pupils receive the program opportunities of the high school, and they are eligible for all high-school activities, including sports.

Student Council Activities

The Student Council of the Mary E. Wells High School plays an important part between students and administration. This organization is under the direction of Miss Rose Brodeur. The values of the organization are manifold.

1. Pupils participate in or manage extracurricular affairs.
2. Responsibility, initiative, and leadership are developed.
3. Proper Student-Faculty relations are promoted.
4. Training in worthy citizenship is furnished.
5. The general welfare of the school is promoted.
6. The internal administration of the school is aided.

The Fred E. Corbin Chapter of the National Honor Society

The local chapter of the National Honor Society, named in honor of the late Mr. Fred E. Corbin, inducted twenty-six members during the past year. The most recent induction was honored by the Superintendent of Schools, Mr. George Sellig, who spoke at the ceremonies.

The following young people have been inducted into the society during the past year:

March 1956

Seniors

David Kavanagh
Robert Lamothe
Dolores Liro
Paul Mathieu
Patricia Nichols
James H. Robertson
Marcia Wilson

Juniors

Diane Allen
Muriel Brown
Louise Coccia
Marion Croke
Stephanie Domijan
Carole Dudek
Kenneth Ethier
Vincent Kochanek
Florence Ludwin
Loda Slota

November 1956

Seniors

Thomas Libuda
Theresa Martin
Russell McKinstry

Juniors

Santhe Billis
Alanson Bowen
Madeleine Caplette
Walter Damian
David Harrauld
Richard Mathews

Assemblies

Assemblies are held every other week. These assemblies are of immense value to any student body inasmuch as they are not only educational but explore the various phases of school life. Furthermore, they widen and deepen the interest of the pupils and serve as a means of developing public opinion and appreciation. The types of assemblies fall into many categories, such as:

1. Education
2. Music
3. Rallies
4. Drama
5. Club Programs
6. Movies
7. Entertainment
8. Honor Society Installation
9. Science
10. Commerce and Business
11. Observance of Special Days
12. Guidance

The assemblies are held in the auditorium of the high school.

Senior Class Trip

One of the extracurricular activities which is of educational value is the trip taken by the seniors to Washington, D. C. In order to acquaint the townspeople with the educational value of this trip, the routine itinerary is published in the local newspapers.

Recommendations

There are several recommendations that I would like to make at this time:

1. That modern lavatory facilities for eighth and ninth grade boys be installed on the basement floor under Room 115.
2. That a complete renovation of the Science Laboratory be made. New equipment is needed to keep abreast with the rapid progress of science.

3. That a library be started and a teacher-librarian be appointed.
4. That more lockers be installed until enough are furnished to take care of all pupils' personal belongings, coats, rubbers, etc.
5. That the industrial arts program be expanded in order that those pupils who are not interested in a trade education may have the benefit from allied courses.
6. That a Biology Laboratory be installed so that pupils may conduct experiments to increase their interest in the subject.
7. That a survey be made to determine the proper methods of lighting all rooms in the school.
8. That more recent business equipment be installed in the Commercial Department.
9. That money be appropriated for assembly programs.
10. That after ten years' consecutive service, teachers and administrators be given a sabbatical leave at full pay for professional study or travel.
11. That a yearly allotment of not less than \$1500 be appropriated for the band—an unusually worthy group which has been forced to be self-supporting.

I wish to express my appreciation to the townspeople for their continued efforts in behalf of the Mary E. Wells High School, and I extend my thanks to the School Department for support.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION and EVENING VOCATIONAL COURSES

DR. JAMES M. ROBERTSON, Director

Classes in evening vocational subjects were offered again this year and proved to be very well attended. The following vocational classes were started in September:

Elementary Sewing	Three classes
Advanced Dressmaking	One class
Tailoring	One class
Cooking	One class

University Extension classes were offered in the commercial and academic fields:

Elementary Typewriting	One class
Advanced Typewriting	One class

These classes were conducted under the supervision of the State Department of Education and were instructed by accredited teachers.

Other classes in the vocational, commercial, and academic fields will be offered when the demand for them is sufficient to form such classes.

COLE TRADE HIGH SCHOOL

RAYMOND L. W. BENOIT, Director

We are faced again with the problem of space at the Cole Trade High School. This past September marks the third consecutive school year when we were unable to accept all of the boys who desired Vocational Training. This condition is created by minimum requirements set up by the State Department of Vocational Education in order to maintain safe and efficient training. To illustrate, we are training thirteen boys in a nine-boy shop, as set up by the State minimums. In spite of this we still have boys waiting to get into this shop. This condition exists in all trades.

I believe that we have arrived at that point where we must be a little more discerning in the selection of our future trainees. This can be accomplished by giving the candidates a battery of tests and, on the basis of these tests, we would use a more direct method of counseling. At present we have not kept anyone from trade training on the basis of test scores.

Class of 1956

Cabinetmakers

DiBonaventura, Guerino John	Sanderski, Stanley Anthony, Jr.
Holden, John Alan	Scanlon, Michael Richard
Peckham, Bradford Lyon	Smith, Robert William
	Wells, John Allan

Draftsmen

Antil, Daniel Raye	Gentili, Arthur Quinto, Jr.
	Lach, John Henry

Electricians

Caraccio, Camille Rosario	Iacobucci, John Joseph, Jr.
Dalrymple, Colin Oliver	Lavallee, Andre Alfred
	Olsta, Donald Henry

Machinists

Cloutier, Albert Ernest	Salce, Luigi Carmine
Delage, Norman Edward	Suprenant, Oliver Frank
Lawson, Robert Graham	Taylor, Kenneth Norman
Lippe, Alfred John	Trombley, George Francis

Metalsmiths

Leduc, Paul Roger	Leduc, William Leo
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Class Officers

President	John J. Iacobucci, Jr.
Vice-President	John H. Lach
Secretary	Robert G. Lawson
Treasurer	Alfred J. Lippe
Class Advisor	Mr. Lucian J. Manchuk

Awards

American Legion Post No. 31 Award	
(Good Citizenship)	John Iacobucci
Director's Gold "C"	Alfred Lippe
English	Luigi Salce
History	Arthur Gentili
Mathematics	John Iacobucci
Science	Luigi Salce
Reader's Digest Award	John Lach

Evening School Division

Woodworking:

Mr. Frank P. Skinyon	12
Mr. David F. Knight	16

Drafting:

Mr. John L. Benson	27
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Machine:

Mr. William B. Paul	15
Mr. Edwin J. Waskiewicz	13

Soldering-Welding:

Mr. George H. Braman	27
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Furniture Refinishing:

Mrs. Margaret B. Baybutt	29
Mr. Antonio Orsini	25

Apprentice:

Mr. John L. Benson	7
Mr. Frank P. Skinyon	14

185

In conclusion, I thank the townspeople, the School Committee, the Advisory Board, the Superintendent of Schools, the Faculty, the office staffs, and our custodian for their valuable aid in helping to make Vocational Education a success in the Town of Southbridge.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SCHOOL NURSE

LOTTIE A. LeBLANC, School Nurse

Some of the more essential work being done by the School Health Department can be better understood from the following statistics:

Physical Examinations	782
Visits to Schools	354
Vision Tests	1,985
Hearing Tests	1,956

Home Visits	198
Conferences on Health Problems	1,397
Dental Care	361
Inoculations	6,227
Pre-School Clinic Registration	293
Donation for Milk by Lions Club	\$800
Census of physically handicapped completed.	
Census of the blind completed.	
Five home teachers provided for children unable to go to school.	
Clear Type books obtained from the Massachusetts Division of the Blind for two pupils.	
Routine chest X-ray of School Personnel made.	

In conclusion, I wish to take this opportunity to thank everyone who contributed in any way to the success of the 1956 Health Program.

PLAYGROUND REPORT

DR. LEWIS A. KYRIOS, Director

The playground season began on July 19, 1956 and ended August 17, 1956, a period of six weeks. The activities were conducted at the following areas: Charlton Street, Eastford Road, West Street, Pleasant Street, and the Town Hall.

Personnel

Director Dr. Lewis A. Kyrios
 Supervisor of Arts & Crafts Mrs. Kathryn Beauregard

Charlton Street Playground

Supervisors Mrs. Helen Duquette, Mr. Eugene Remian
 Assistants Miss Nancy Hughes, Miss Susan Girard

Eastford Road Playground

Supervisor Mr. Vincent Puracchio
 Assistants Miss Mary Butler, Miss Judith Caron

West Street Playground

Supervisor Mr. Anthony Sapienza
 Assistants Miss Antoinette DelGreco, Miss Kathryn Hart

Pleasant Street Playground

Supervisor Miss Madelene Proulx
 Assistants Miss Genevieve Hetu, Miss Jacqueline Eno,
 Mr. Lee Partlow

Enrollment and Attendance

Total Enrollment	1,140
Average Daily Attendance	480
Average Percentage of Attendance	44%
Largest Daily Attendance	62%

Activities

Intro-playground competition in softball, volleyball, and dodgeball, was offered. Basketball, zellball, horseshoes, and ping-pong were presented as intro-playground activities. Singing games, quiet games, swings, slides, jungle-gym, and sandbox activities were listed for the "little people."

Arts and Crafts

The Arts and Crafts Exhibit under the capable supervision of Mrs. Kathryn Beauregard was outstanding. The Exhibit was held in the Town Hall on August 16 from 2:00 to 4:00 p. m. and from 7:00 to 9:00 p. m. Over 4,000 items were displayed. Parents and friends of the children were invited and over 500 people attended.

Safety Program

The Safety Program was very successful, and the results were excellent. There were no major accidents.

I wish to extend my appreciation to all those who helped to make the Playground season a success.

GUIDANCE AND PLACEMENT

SVEN O. ROSENGREN, Director

Testing Program

Tests administered to pupils in the Southbridge Public Schools during the past year were selected to conform to a regular pattern of testing previously approved and established for the system. Briefly, this pattern provides for testing interest, scholastic aptitude, vocational aptitude, and achievement.

The California Tests of Mental Maturity were administered in the fall to all pupils in grades 1, 4, 7, 9, and 11. In the spring all pupils in grades 1 through 8 responded to the California Achievement Test Battery. In addition to this group testing, tests were administered individually to pupils transferring to us from other school systems.

A battery of tests, measuring interest, intelligence, mechanical and clerical aptitude, and reading, was administered to all eighth grade students prior to their selection of high-school programs. The test results were used in counseling pupils and in conference with parents.

In cooperation with the director of the Cole Trade High School, another selected battery of tests was administered to ninth grade pupils of that school. This battery included a group of three mechanical aptitude tests, two intelligence tests, and one diagnostic reading test. It was intended to provide predictive data and to isolate reading problems now existing in the tested group.

Representatives from Boston University administered a psychometric battery of tests to the Junior classes of Mary E. Wells and Cole Trade High Schools in February 1956. Analyses and individual psychometric profiles were subsequently received from the University for use in counseling.

Counseling

A counseling service is provided for students in the Southbridge Public Schools. Some of this counseling was achieved through group situations. In some instances the counseling process included parents and pupils but, in the large, counseling was of an individual nature.

The graduating class of 1956 numbered seventy-five students, 42 per cent of whom continued on to further education in four-year colleges, junior colleges, business schools, and nursing schools.

Employment

Thirty-seven per cent of the students in the class of 1956 became employed in full-time jobs after graduation from high school. A part-time placement service is also provided by the Guidance Department.

Recommendations

1. It is recommended that a Dean of Girls be appointed in the Mary E. Wells High School to assist in the counseling program.
2. An analysis of test data indicates that there is a need for a remedial reading program in our schools.

The Director of Guidance and Placement wishes to thank all members of the Southbridge School Department for their cooperation in the administration of the guidance activity.

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC REPORT

PAUL J. SWEET, Director

In submitting my annual report, several things stand out prominently as definite accomplishments during the past year.

First, the high school band has successfully made the transition from a marching band for the football games and public parades to a concert band, which presented several excellent programs both in town and out of town. It received a rating of excellent at the music festival held last May in Auburn.

Second, a junior band was maintained. This band went to the festival in Auburn. It took part in several local parades, including the Memorial Day parade for which it received much acclaim.

One of the musical highlights of the year was the annual Christmas assembly at which the high school band was enthusiastically received by the student body.

Late in the year a new group of elementary students were enrolled in the instrumental music program and will, after the first of the year, be formed into a band and will take part in several spring concerts.

The instrumental music department is handling a total of about one hundred twenty-five students from grades five through twelve.

This past fall saw the greatest demand for enrollment in the instrumental music course with about forty-five pupils accepted. Almost forty-five more pupils could not be accommodated because of the present crowded schedule of the instructor. It is the hope of the director that an additional instrumental music instructor be added to the staff so that all children who wish to have an experience in active music may be accommodated.

In conclusion may I take this opportunity to thank all the custodians, teachers, principals, and office secretaries who, by their many kind acts, have helped make my work a little easier.

CAFETERIA REPORT

MRS. EDITH FREEMAN, Supervisor

There has been an increase in the use of the cafeteria this year. Servings have averaged between 450 and 475 every school day.

Reprocessed equipment, a deep freeze and a mixing machine, have been added. A slicing machine, donated by Mr. Harry McMahon, is appreciated greatly and eliminates the cost of slicing meat.

The need for added refrigeration is great. It is necessary to store Government frozen foods in Putnam, Connecticut, since the Bradley Company went out of business. A new refrigeration locker at the High School would alleviate this condition.

A ventilating fan is also needed in the kitchen.

The Elementary Milk Program in the Elementary schools remains on the same high level. The Southbridge Lions Club continues to pay for milk for those who cannot afford it.

The Southbridge Evening Women's Club and the Marcy Street P. T. A. pay for the lunches of the needy children in Mrs. Reed's room. This is a highly commendable project because good nutrition aids these children in doing better work.

ART DEPARTMENT

CLAIRE BIRTZ, Supervisor

Due to the large increase in the number of classrooms in elementary and junior high schools, and the larger enrollment in high-school art classes, it has become impossible for one art supervisor to teach art in the senior high and junior high

schools. It is also impossible to visit each elementary classroom every two weeks as originally planned. Because of this situation, lessons have been curtailed to one thirty-minute period a month for each elementary classroom. Classroom teachers have co-operated, and they are doing very fine work, but specialized training is needed for those who teach art.

Our schools are well supplied with art materials. First to fourth grade pupils use easel paints and brushes. Clay, crayons, and special papers for projects are provided. Each fifth grade student has a box of water colors, plus easel paints, lettering pens, inks, and materials for special projects. Sixth and seventh grade students have water color boxes, tempera paints, lettering pens, colored inks, chalks, and crayons. Metallic papers, poster board, and colored papers are also available. Eighth grade students are provided with water colors, tempera paints, lettering pens and ink, crayons, linoleum blocks for Christmas cards, poster board, and paper in many colors.

New art books for teacher and pupil reference are being added each year to the libraries at each elementary school. These schools are well provided with all art supplies but, at present, there is not enough art supervision.

The high-school art classes present another problem. Due to shortage of space, all of our year's supplies must be kept in the art room. Classes have increased in size, but the art room is not any larger. To our sorrow, we cannot carry on some of the large projects we have in mind. This year, advanced classes in high school have done some very creditable oil paintings, and, with the addition of a small kiln, we have had very fine results in enameling on copper. I would like also to include ceramics, but that would require more space and storage shelves which we can not provide.

AUDIO-VISUAL AIDS DEPARTMENT

EDWARD DESROCHES, Director

It is a foregone conclusion among educational researchers that audio-visual instructional materials are just as much a part of the instructional program as are textbooks, workbooks, etc. Children learn more in less time and remember longer when audio-visual instructional materials are used to teach them. In fact, the total educational program is made more meaningful by the use of these materials.

The marked increase in teacher requests for audio-visual materials in 1956 would seem to indicate that teachers in Southbridge are becoming increasingly more cognizant of the tremendous educational potentialities of these materials in the instructional program. Teachers used more films, filmstrips, lantern slides and tape recordings in 1956 than in any previous year.

New Equipment and Materials

The services of the Department were extended during the year by the purchase of several pieces of much-needed equipment. A new 16mm sound projector and two 4-speed record players were added to the Department. The latter purchases, accompanied by the purchase of carefully selected educational records, will, in actuality, mean an entirely new service to teachers.

In addition to the above purchases, forty filmstrips were added to our fast-growing filmstrip library. Our library now carries over four hundred titles which are all closely correlated with various subject-matter areas of the curriculum.

Student Projectionists

Students, selected and trained by the director, continue to relieve teachers of projection details whenever projected aids are used. This service has done much to encourage teachers to make greater use of audio-visual materials in their teaching.

Research

Research, initiated in 1954, on the problem, "Building the Type of Audio-Visual Aids Program which should be in Operation in the Southbridge Public Schools," was completed in July 1956. Every phase of the audio-visual program was thoroughly investigated in this work and extensive recommendations made for the improvement of our present program.

Consideration is given to such areas as personnel, teacher training, equipment need in individual schools, classroom design, audio-visual center lay-out, etc. The completeness of this research should help greatly in the future development of audio-visual instruction in Southbridge.

Community Services

Equipment and operators were provided for many community organizations in 1956. The following organizations were recipients of such services: Mother's Club, Girl Scouts, Association for the Mentally Retarded, Rotary Club, U. S. Postal Department, and the Jacob Edwards Public Library.

The successful administration of the audio-visual program would remain an impossibility without the cooperation of all school personnel. I wish, therefore, to express my sincere appreciation to all principals, supervisors, and teachers for their interest and assistance in the audio-visual program.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT REPORT

DR. LEWIS A. KYRIOS, Director

The general function of our Physical Education program is to assist in providing a medium for the normal growth and natural development of each pupil.

In order to fulfill the above desire, our Physical Education program has been divided into three distinct phases: regular gym classes, the controlled recess program, and the after-school athletic program.

Regular gym classes are offered in the following learning levels: grade six boys and girls, grade seven boys and girls, all grades of Cole Trade High School, special classes—boys and girls. Each student of the above levels are insured one period of regular gym during the week. This phase of physical education involves twenty-eight gym periods and ten levels of learning.

The following units are stressed in our regular gym classes: Formalized Activities, Military Drill and Calisthenics, Stunts and Self-Testing Activities, Tumbling, Pyramids, Basic Skills, Group Games, and Recreational Sports.

The controlled recess program has been organized for all students in grades one through five. The activities offered are based on the abilities of the students of each grade. A definite schedule has been introduced to allow minimum use of areas, facilities and equipment, and to insure safe participation for all students. This particular phase of physical education is planned and organized by the Director, and each classroom teacher administrated the program. Two new teaching manuals, listing and explaining the various activities, have been developed by the Director for the convenience of the classroom teacher.

The after-school athletic program has been organized to give the elementary school student an opportunity to participate in competitive sports with proper supervision. Boys may participate in touch softball, basketball, and baseball. The girls are offered basketball and softball. Regular schedules have been developed. All the students participating in these activities are properly supervised by their coaches. All teams are properly clothed. Practices and games are held in the elementary gyms and on the playgrounds of our schools.

In conclusion I wish to thank the principals and classroom teachers in our elementary schools for their generous collaboration and cooperation in establishing these programs.







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